

## VCE Drama Units 1 - 4

### OVERVIEW

The study of Drama focuses on the creation and performance of characters and stories in naturalistic and non-naturalistic ways. Students draw on a range of stimulus material and play-making techniques to develop and present devised work. Students also explore a range of performance styles and conventions, dramatic elements and stagecraft. They use performance and expressive skills to explore and develop role and character. They analyse the development of their own work and performances by other drama practitioners.

People tell stories, explore ideas, make sense of their worlds and communicate meaning through drama. Drama develops personal and social identity.

VCE Drama connects students to the traditions of drama practice and, through the processes of devising and performing drama, allows them to explore, understand and respond to the contexts, narratives and stories that shape their worlds.

The study requires students to be creative and critical thinkers. Through work as solo and ensemble performers and engagement with the work of professional drama practitioners, students develop an appreciation of drama as an art form and develop skills of criticism and aesthetic understanding.

They will;

- i) develop an understanding of performance styles and conventions from a diversity of cultures
- ii) explore the process used to develop the dramatic potential of stimulus material
- iii) develop, through practice and analysis, an understanding of drama as a way of communicating stories and meaning
- iv) manipulate dramatic elements and stagecraft in devising and performing dramatic works
- v) develop and refine expressive and performance skills
- vi) devise, perform and evaluate solo and ensemble dramatic works.

Semester 1 focuses on the nature of collaboration as students work in a group to devise an ensemble performance. Also in semester 1 students visit two professional performances and then must respond to those performances which they do in think-pair-share activities and through essay work.

Semester 2 focuses more on the individual as students prepare, research, devise and perform a seven minute solo performance

Students are expected to work on specific roles within their collaborative project and it is expected that they utilise their free time to plan, script and rehearse In

semester 2 they are encouraged to fulfil the outcomes of practical units by self-direction.

On completion of this study the student should be able to analyse and evaluate the creation, development and presentation of a devised non-naturalistic solo performance. They should also understand the function and roles within ensemble creation and performance learning about teamwork and problem solving.

Drama runs over four consecutive classes on a Monday. This approach means the class is more like an intensive workshop where the focus can be extended and work can be conceived and delivered within one set time frame. This allows more time spent on critical reflection and the four hours of direct contact means the work is more immediate and daring.

#### ASSESSMENT

In Units 1 & 2 a range of informal assessment includes improve activities; character building exercises, short essays, research projects, practical tasks and observation underpin intervention and inform where students sit on the assessment continuum.

SACS written and SATS projects are the main grading assessment in VCE Drama Units 3 & 4

#### SUBJECT PREREQUISITES

There are no formal prerequisites for this subject